

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Langdon. Claims 1 through 4, 9 and 12 through 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by McGuire. Claims 1 through 4, 6 through 8, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosmatka '433 or Bradley '748 in view of Langdon. Claims 1 through 4, 6 through 9 and 12 through 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosmatka '433 or Bradley '748 in view of McGuire. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosmatka '433 or Bradley '748 in view of Langdon or McGuire and in further view of Bergman. Claims 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosmatka '433 or Bradley '748 in view of Langdon and in further view of Suzuki.

The Examiner has, however, indicated that claims 6 through 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

In responding to these rejections, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of former claim 6, which has accordingly been cancelled. Claim 1 is therefore allowable. The remaining dependent claims of record have been amended for consistency with amended claim 1. Claim 12 has been cancelled, since its limitations are now incorporated into new claim 1 and claim 13 restructured to be dependent upon amended claim 1. The Applicant respectfully requests favorable review and passage to issuance.

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No new matter has been added in this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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